

Site: A.L. TaylorBreak: 13.7

Other: _____

1900 4 March 1979

Bullit County, KY--Work continues at the Valley of the Drums to prevent oil and hazardous materials from draining into Wilson Creek. A small dam has been built across the stream to collect floating pollutants and to aerate the water in an effort evaporate chemicals which are soluble in water.

Heavy equipment is being used to relocate drums and clear an area for future operations. A shallow trench is being constructed along the lower side of the dump site to collect surface runoff before it reaches the creek.

A Regional Response Team meeting has been scheduled for Monday morning to discuss various problems presented by the drainage of oil and hazardous materials from the dump, and possible methods for dealing with this problem. Representatives from the State will also be present to discuss the situation with the federal agencies represented at the Regional Response Team meeting.

Soil and water samples have been taken for analysis to determine what chemicals are present. Preliminary results show the presence of benzene, toluene and ketone. More tests will have to be run before we can know the identity of other chemicals which may be present in the stream and the soil.



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A private company, under contract to EPA, began work Saturday afternoon to stop oil and other hazardous materials from draining into Wilson Creek at the Taylor Dump in Bullit County. Taylor Dump is commonly referred to as the "Valley of the Drums." The present drainage problem apparently came about as a result of the recent heavy rains and melting snow. This runoff is washing chemicals from leaking drums and contaminated soil ~~down the hill~~ into the stream.

The first step in controlling the runoff was the construction of a small dam across the creek, approximately 1/2 mile downstream from the dump. ~~Peat moss was placed behind~~
~~the dam~~ stream The dam does not completely stop the flow of water but it will collect the floating pollutants. ~~and~~ Peat moss, placed behind the dam, will soak up some of the ~~xxxxxxx~~ materials which are soluble in water. Construction of this dam is only the first of several possible actions which may be ~~taken~~ to try and control or prevent ~~fur~~ther stream contamination.

EPA has established a command post at the Best Western Motel in Shepherdsville in room 221. News Media may call 502 543-3905 between 7:00 am and 10:00pm for more information.